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# Community Justice Participation Statement

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Just Communities – strengthening  
relationships, building resilience and  
reducing reoffending

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Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice  
Partnership

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Section 21 of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 requires that a Participation Statement be prepared by the statutory partners. The statement must set out the action taken by the statutory partners to achieve the participation of third sector bodies and community bodies involved in community justice for the local authority area in the preparation of the plan<sup>1</sup>.

This paper sets out local consultation that has taken place across Dumfries and Galloway to date. We have also been involved in wider consultation at both a Community Justice Authority<sup>2</sup> and a national level as appropriate.

The Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Partnership see this participation statement as a living document and although this was prepared as part of our initial plan, participation will remain ongoing and will be evidenced within our Outcome Annual Activity Returns that go to Community Justice Scotland in September every year; membership of our local partnership also clearly evidences third sector engagement. All of this will enable participation to be viewed as a process rather than a stand alone piece of work, ultimately making us more accountable to the communities we serve. As part of our local Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan we aim to develop a short, easier to read version of the plan which will aid community consultation moving forward. One of our key actions for the first year of the partnership was to work on a robust communication strategy and the development of a user friendly, interactive website to include the work of the wider partnership and showcase the positive work of all partners and communities; this has now been superseded by a Community Justice section within the D&G Public Protection website.

We recognise that in order to consult effectively we must utilise the skills and networks of all the partners, linking in a meaningful way with communities and using established services and community groups often led by the third sector.

The Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Partners are committed to:

- Involving all relevant stakeholders, communities and members of the public in the development of policies that will impact upon them;
- Make arrangements for participation which is inclusive, clear and transparent;
- Provide communication in a range of formats and ensure it is jargon free and easy to understand;
- Ensuring that contributions made by all participants are respected

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<sup>1</sup> National Guidance document available at <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00510514.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Dumfries and Galloway is currently one of four local authority areas which form South West Scotland Community Justice Authority for this shadow year before final implementation of our local Community Justice Partnership. As such we have participated in and co delivered consultation at this level as well as at a local level.



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## DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY JUSTICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

### PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

Stakeholders	Consultation/Involvement Activities	Dates	Outcomes
<b>Statutory Partners</b>	<b>Briefings</b> Briefings for all statutory partners on the National Community Justice Strategy and the process for taking forward the Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan.	July to October 2016	Buy - in from all statutory partners to the new arrangements for delivering Community Justice in Dumfries and Galloway. Lead officers identified to represent statutory agencies on Dumfries and Galloway CJ Partnership.
	<b>Community Justice Events</b> Statutory Partners well represented at CJ Stakeholders Event. Workshops addressed the way in which the national CJ Outcomes will be delivered locally in Dumfries and Galloway.	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2016 (Dfs) 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2016 (Stranraer)	70 people attended the two local stakeholder events (East and West). Workshop output and evaluation results from both events will be fed into the development of the Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan
	<b>CJP Meetings</b> Community Justice Partnership Meetings	First meeting scheduled for 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Partnership Terms of reference drafted for consultation at first meeting (10/01/17). Community Justice Partnership established with responsibility for strategic oversight of the Dumfries and Galloway CJ Outcomes Improvement Plan



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	Draft Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan available on Dumfries and Galloway NHS, Dumfries and Galloway CPP and SWSCJA website	February 2017	Comments and changes will be considered and reflected in the final document prior to publication.
<b>Community Sector/Non Statutory Partners</b>	<b>Briefings</b> Briefing with Dumfries and Galloway College on the National Community Justice Strategy	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	Attending local Community Justice Stakeholder Event in Dumfries. Representation agreed for local Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Partnership.  Agreement of community justice input on an annual basis for students.
	Briefing with Strategic Housing, Dumfries and Galloway Council and Homelessness Department	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	Attended local Community Justice Stakeholder Event in Dumfries. Representation agreed for local Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Partnership (lead officer and substitute). New Strategic Housing Strategy under development which should now link with Community Justice actions.
	Engagement with the University of the West of Scotland and social work students. UWS agreed to host local stakeholder event in Dumfries free of charge in exchange for social work student places.	Oct – Nov 2016	Attending local Community Justice Stakeholder Event in Dumfries. Representation agreed for local Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Partnership  Cohort of students attended local Community Justice Stakeholder events Community Justice Partnership Manager agreed annual input to social work students on 'Partnership Working in Justice' by representatives of the local partnership.
	Community Justice Survey shared with UWS (approx 54 students have received this)	Jan - Feb 2017	Will help inform awareness of Community Justice in D&G



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<b>Community Sector</b>	<p>Focus group held with care experienced young people 'Let's Talk' participation project</p> <p>Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Survey currently with Community Planning for distribution to all community and locality groups. Community Learning and Development will be a core partner in this exercise. This will be used to ascertain communities understanding and awareness of community justice</p> <p>Community Justice Questionnaire developed for those with previous experience of the criminal justice system. This will be used to ascertain participants understanding and awareness of community justice as well as identify gaps/opportunities for development throughout the justice journey. Distributed to CPO teams and third sector justice providers</p>	<p>TBC</p> <p>Jan – March 2017</p> <p>Dec – Feb 2017</p>	<p>The findings will be incorporated in to the Dumfries and Galloway CJOIP. The participation project has agreed to be an ongoing consultation group for the new Community Justice Partnership.</p> <p>The findings will be incorporated in to the Dumfries and Galloway CJOIP. The participation project has agreed to be an ongoing consultation group for the new Community Justice Partnership.</p>
	<p>Draft Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan shared on social media (facebook, twitter, LinkedIn)</p>	<p>February 2017</p>	<p>Over 60 people had viewed the document and some feedback received which will feed in to final plan.</p>



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<b>Voluntary Sector</b>	<b>Third Sector Engagement</b> All justice third sector providers consulted and briefing took place with Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector Interface CEO	July/Aug 16	Information from voluntary sector engagement with CJ stakeholders to feed into Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Profile.
	Offer made to host a Community Justice workshop at Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector Interface Annual Conference (Connect 2016) to inform wider Voluntary Sector CJ Stakeholders	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	Despite initial interest this workshop was cancelled, however a local Community Justice Event was held in Dumfries 22 <sup>nd</sup> November which may have affected numbers.
	CJP Manager consulted with service user group at Apex Scotland. Update on new partnership provided and agreement that service users would become a reference group as work progresses	December 2016	Acknowledgment that relationships and belief that change was possible had made the difference. Maintaining structure on completion of CPO was seen as critical. Community volunteering changing public perception.
	Consultation with wider third sector organisations to establish who is best placed to represent on the local partnership	January 2017	Dates sent out to bring third sector partners together to establish the correct representation for the CJ Partnership. Agreement that other third sector representatives may be asked to join short life working groups to deliver on identified actions.
	Joint work with DAVAWP, Victim Support and Families Outside to gather information from their engagement with victims and witnesses and the children and families of those who have offended	Jan - March 2017	This will be an ongoing piece of work and considered throughout the lifetime of the CJOIP



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	Community Justice Strategic Assessment draft shared with wider third sector for comment and update on CJ Partnership in Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector bulletin	January 2017	Any feedback will be considered, and amendments made. This information will feed in to the CJOIP
	Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Survey shared through Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway to reach all wider third sector partners	January 2017	Any feedback will be considered and amendments made. This information will feed in to the CJOIP
	Draft CJOIP out for consultation. This was shared with Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway, local third sector justice providers, third sector partners within our own partnership as well as through D&G ADP, DAVAWP, ASP, Child Protection to reach wider third sector groups.	February 2017	Comments and changes will be considered and reflected in the final document prior to publication.
<b>Private Sector</b>	<b>Briefing</b> Initial meeting held with representative from Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of Commerce/Developing the Young Workforce to discuss employer engagement in the development of the Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan	September 2016	<p>Opportunities for future employer engagement and links to education and opportunities for local young people explored. Also discussed future links with both HMP Dumfries and HMP Kilmarnock in order to identify opportunities for those leaving custody.</p> <p>Prisoner placements with local employers to be further developed, led by HMP Dumfries and D&amp;G DYW (Chamber of Commerce)</p>



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<b>Custody<sup>3</sup></b> Long Term Prisoners	10 Dumfries and Galloway prisoners serving sentences of four years and above to take part in focus group discussions	April - June 2017	Feedback from Focus Group outputs will be used to further develop Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan. This work will remain ongoing with focus groups used as reference groups in the development of easy read documents and the establishment of short life working groups.
Short Term Prisoners	14 Dumfries and Galloway prisoners serving between four months and four years completed the local Community Justice Survey for service users	Feb/March 2017	Feedback from Focus Group outputs will be incorporated in Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan. We will issue this survey on an annual basis to identify changes/gaps.
Social Work Criminal Justice Teams	Management team from Dumfries and Galloway Criminal Justice Social Work have been briefed on the new Community Justice arrangements. All CJSW staff were invited to local stakeholder events	July/August 2016	All CJSW staff have an awareness of the new arrangements and the impact this will have on service delivery
	A number of Criminal Justice Social Work staff participated in both Community Justice Stakeholders event (East and West)	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	CJSW staff involved in identifying gaps/ areas for improvement in CJ service delivery. Some staff buy in to the concept of becoming local Community Justice Champions
	Draft CJOIP shared with Criminal Justice Manager and team leaders. This has been cascaded down to teams	February 2017	Feedback and comments will be considered and incorporated in to the final plan.

<sup>3</sup> Focus group discussions were held in HMP Dumfries as this is the local establishment in Dumfries and Galloway. Women involved in the justice system have fed in to this participation statement through the utilisation of Shine mentors working with women serving both community and custodial sentences.



	Draft CJOIP available on sharepoint to all social work services for comment	February 2017	Feedback and comments will be considered and incorporated in to the final plan.
Social Work Criminal Justice Service Users	Criminal Justice Social Work staff agreed to carry out 1:1 interviews with their service users on their experience of the Criminal Justice journey	Dec - Jan 17	The findings will be included in the CJOIP.
	Focus groups held with service users undertaking Community Payback Orders (East and West of the region)	April - June 2017	Findings to be used to further develop CJOIP and identify areas for improvement. Focus group discussions to be on going.
Children and families of those who have offended	Engagement with children and families of those who have offended facilitated through Families Outside, HMP Dumfries Family Contact Officers and CJSW delivering support to families of those involved in the Caledonian Project	Jan – June17	<p>Partner engagement with those who support children and families of those who have offended has identified the key issues, the range of interventions delivered, gaps in service, and the areas for improvement to be included in the CJOIP. Direct consultation with families will take place over the next 12 months facilitated by HMP Dumfries FCO and Families Outside as appropriate.</p> <p>This will remain as ongoing engagement throughout the lifetime of the partnership.</p>
Victims and witnesses	Victim Support delivered a presentation at our local Community Justice Stakeholder Event in Stranraer to highlight the impact of crime on victims and witnesses and the range of support available.	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	<p>Workshop evaluated well and through Victim Support representation on the local Community Justice Partnership victims will remain central to the development of the Dumfries and Galloway CJOIP</p> <p>Victim Support nationally will provide feedback from victims at this stage rather than direct consultation although we recognise many of those involved in the justice system have also been victims of crime and through wider public engagement we will have captured their views.</p>



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	Engagement with victims and witnesses facilitated through Dumfries and Galloway Victim Support, Women’s Aid etc	Dec – Feb 17	The key issues experienced by victims and witnesses, and the quality support provided will enable gaps in services and areas for improvement to be identified.
Women involved in the criminal justice system	Shine mentors – The experience of women involved in the justice system and an assessment of their needs facilitated through Apex Scotland (local delivery partner for the National Shine Mentoring Service) and CJSW team members working with women.	Sep – Dec 16	The needs of women involved in the justice system and the support required to stop them re-offending has been facilitated locally by the Shine Mentors <sup>4</sup> . This has enabled the needs of women both in custody and in the community to be considered within the Dumfries and Galloway CJOIP.  This will remain an ongoing area for development throughout the lifetime of the partnership.

The Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan was viewed over 600 times by utilising twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and websites (Dumfries and Galloway Council, NHS Dumfries and Galloway, South West Scotland CJA). It was also shared with colleagues on Knowledgehub and via CJVSF<sup>5</sup>.

We received 20 written responses to the consultation and the plan was updated to reflect feedback, although on the whole all feedback was extremely positive. Particular mention was given to the title of the plan and the fact it was easy to read and follow. Production of an even easier to read, short version of the plan is an action for the partnership moving forward. This can then be used to help engage communities. This document will continue to be reviewed and updated throughout the lifetime of the partnership.

#### Contact Details

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Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Partnership Manager

We have also prepared and submitted Outcome Annual Activity Return templates in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. As well as this we have shared a local Annual Report in a Newsletter format following the publication of a six-monthly newsletter that was well received. The Chair of our local partnership is from a local third sector organisation and third sector have been heavily involved in Short Life Working Groups. It’s important to acknowledge the valuable contribution third sector partners bring to the work of the partnership.

<sup>4</sup> The Shine Mentoring Service is a National PSP led by Sacro and delivered locally by Apex Scotland. The service works with female offenders whilst in custody and upon liberation. Women undertaking Community Payback Orders can also be supported by the service. More information on the Shine Mentoring Service is available at <http://www.shinementoring.org/>

<sup>5</sup> Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum